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Elizabeth Rebekah Speer

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29
(p. 2)



Elizabeth Rebekah Speer
Pianist
Mezzo Contralto

144 South Lincoln St.
Washington, Penna.

Testimonials

Berlin, May 6, 1896.

Miss Speer studied piano playing with me about two years. She was very diligent and has got to render the pieces studied by her in a truly loyal way; so I may expect her to be a good teacher till the standard reached by her.

HENRICH BARTH.

Berlin, May 11, 1903.

Miss Elizabeth Rebekah Speer has studied vocal culture and the rendition of classic and modern song with me from October, 1902, until May, 1903. Hereby I gladly testify that through great diligence and talent she has made wonderful progress vocally as well as musically during this time, and that she possesses a very sympathetic mezzo-contralto voice.

SELMA THOMAS,

Concert Singer and Voice Teacher.

The Fisk Teachers' Agencies.

Boston, May 23, 1903.

Fraulein Selma Thomas,

Friedrich Wilhelm Strasse 17, Berlin,
Germany:—

You have been referred to as being able to speak intelligently of the character and the work of Miss Elizabeth R. Speer.

We shall be gratified if you will give on the topics named below as discriminating, full and transparent statements as possible.

Any further points of criticism or recommendation may be written on the back of this sheet:

Information unfavorable to the candidate will be received in confidence.

1. Scholarship.—Miss Speer has been a pupil of great talent and ability

2. Success as a teacher.—Has not been teaching under my direction.

3. Ability as a disciplinarian.—She has all the qualities necessary in that line.

4. Personal appearance.—Miss E. R. Speer is charming in appearance and manner

5. Moral and religious character.—She is a lady of high moral and religious character.

6. Habits and peculiarities likely to interfere with success.—None that I know of.

SELMA THOMAS,

Concert Singer and Vocal Teacher.

218 Tremont St., Boston,

February 21, 1906.

My Dear Miss Speer:—

It will always be a great pleasure to me to say a few words in your behalf to any one who may wish to secure your services. Certainly you have filled well such positions as I have found for you and many of your friends and teachers have spoken to me of your ability in the highest terms.

Yours very sincerely,

HENRY C. LAHEE

Galloway College.

Searcy, Ark., March 27, 1897.

To Whom it May Concern:—

Miss Elizabeth Rebekah Speer has been Director of Music in the Conservatory of Galloway College the present scholastic year and has discharged her duties ably and faithfully. She is not only a fine teacher but a brilliant performer. She is a lady of fine personal appearance and presence and makes a good impression upon old and young.

She has had very superior advantages, at the great musical center of the world, Berlin. It gives me great pleasure to commend her to the confidence and employment of those needing her services.

JOHN H. DYE, President.

March 17, 1906.

This is to say that it gives me pleasure to state that I have known Miss Elizabeth Rebekah Speer to be possessed of unusual musical talent from her earliest years and to have been brought up in excellent home surroundings.

She enjoyed superior advantages in this country and made diligent improvement of them. Then followed the experience of four years of teaching—instrumental (piano), vocal and choral. These were intermingled with some five or six years under the direction of some of the most distinguished teachers abroad, Continental and English. In the larger areas of musical knowledge as well as in performance, whether vocal or instrumental, Miss Speer has character as well as rare talent, extended opportunities, teaching experience and the skill of a virtuoso.

Her influence will always be positive in behalf of solid attainments and the larger ideals of life. Respectfully,

SYLVESTER F. SCOVEL,
Ex-President of Wooster (O.) University.

Caldwell College for Young Ladies.

Danville, Ky., Feb. 18, 1904.

It gives me pleasure to say that Miss E. R. Speer has been connected with our college for three years in charge of our Music Department. She has proved herself to be most proficient and capable. She is a brilliant pianist, a careful and successful instructor, an excellent vocalist, having a mezzo-contralto voice and is also a splendid organist. She has given very good satisfaction in her department. She makes a fine appearance and has most agreeable and pleasing manners.

I can heartily commend her as a conscientious and faithful teacher and a Christian lady.

J. C. ELY,
President.

Danville, Ky. Feb. 10, 1903.

Much to the regret of all Miss Speer resigned the Musical Directorship in Caldwell College as well as the position of organist in the Second Presbyterian Church, and went abroad again in 1902 to study further under her former instructors, Prof. Henrich Barth, court pianist to the emperor, and Fraulein Selma Thomas, a well-known concert singer in Berlin. Both teachers speak in highest terms of Miss Speer's progress and talent. In this country, after graduation from Wooster University in piano and voice, training was received from Madame Grace Damian-Brenon, an English contralto of note, who sang for many years in Italian opera in Milan.

With pleasure also the writer bears testimony to Miss Speer's splendid social qualifications and consistent Christian character. Speaking from personal knowledge he is assured that the community or institution securing her services will be most fortunate.

R. G. RAMSAY,
Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church.

Danville, Ky., Feb. 10, 1903.

The undersigned cordially endorses the foregoing testimonial as to Miss Speer's musical ability and high Christian character.

G. E. WISEMAN, SR.,

President Board of Trustees, Caldwell Female College.

New Wilmington, Pa., March 7, 1906.

It is with very great pleasure that I have the privilege of saying a word in commendation of Miss Speer's work as Director of the Musical Department of Westminster College. She proved herself an artist, both as a vocalist and on the instrument, whether piano or organ. Her methods of teaching, and the energy and enthusiasm always manifested in her work was highly commendable.

Wishing her the great success in her profession which she so clearly deserves because of her true merit.

I am respectfully,

J. J. ASHENHURST

Editor of the Globe.

To Whom it May Concern:—

This will certify that Miss Elizabeth Rebekah Speer was Director of Music in Westminster College during one year, when the regular director was absent on account of his health. We found her to be thoroughly competent to direct and instruct, having had unusual musical advantages in this country and abroad. She wrought in perfect harmony with the assistant who was here before her and was disposed to do with heartiness what ever the position required.

She conducted a chorus class in addition to her usual work in piano and voice, which gave a highly creditable entertainment at the close of the College year. She is a young woman of bright mind and good character and is worthy of regard in these respects as well as professionally.

I am yours sincerely,

R. G. FERGUSON,

March 7, 1906.

President.

To Whom it May Concern:—

It gives me pleasure to state that Miss Elizabeth Rebekah Speer has been Director of Music and Teacher of Piano, Organ and Harmony in the Washington Seminary for more than two years. During that time Miss Speer has given entire satisfaction. She is a lover of music, a skilful pianist, playing with great brilliancy and wonderful technic.

Her thorough knowledge of music, her executive ability and her power of control have made her valuable as the Director of the department. She is popular with her pupils and has the rare gift of awakening their enthusiasm and ambition and inspiring them with love for their work. Under Miss Speer's care they have made rapid progress.

C. C. THOMPSON,

November 19, 1906.

Principal.

Several years ago Western Normal College at Bushnell, Illinois, offered Miss Speer the position of Musical Director, but was not able to secure her services. However, her engaging personality was manifest during the brief stay in our town. Statements from others show the remarkably excellent preparation of which Miss Speer has had the advantage. She is thoroughly educated in general culture and in knowledge of both German and English and her beautiful voice will reach large audiences without straining. As a pianist, she undoubtedly holds a very high rank. In short, I heartily recommend Miss Speer as a successful musical director, because of her ability to teach and manage, as well as for scholarship, character and influence. Very respectfully.

W. W. EARNEST,

Supt. Public Schools, Macomb, Ill.

Feb. 17, 1906.

March 24, 1906.

Miss Elizabeth R. Speer is a distinguished pianist, a performer of rare power in interpretation, an exquisite touch and remarkable technique. She has appeared repeatedly before Wooster audiences and never failed to please highly.

W. Z. BENNETT, Chairman,
Lecture-Concert Committee.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feby. 22, 1906.

My Dear Miss Speer:—

It was my pleasure to hear you sing, and your voice impressed me very vividly with its similarity to that of the great Schalchi.

JOSEPH RITTER,

Choir Director 35 years.

Press Notices

High natural endowments, coupled with long years of magnificent training in Berlin under the best German masters, have made Miss Speer a splendid artist. The audience attested their appreciation of her worth by long and hearty applause after each number. If there was any fault in technique or anything else, it was not noticeable. What was not lost upon anyone, was the expression, the emotion, the wonderful spirit and soul in each performance.—Wayne County Herald, Wooster, O., March 18, 1898.

The recital in the Universalist Church, Friday evening, November 19th, 1897, was one of the best entertainments of the kind ever given in Table Grove. Miss Speer's playing was pronounced by connoisseurs to be of the highest skill—a skill only attained by natural aptitude and study under the greatest masters.—Table Grove (Ill.) Herald.

Miss Speer, in a recent song recital, interpreted the works of the masters of Europe in a manner seldom equaled outside of great conservatories. Her rich contralto voice showed free compass and a tone quality difficult to surpass in sympathy and purity while the rendering of the runs and scale passages is proof of the superior cultivation received.—The News, Danville, Ky

The Bushnell (Ill.) Democrat says: "Words fail the writer to describe Miss Speer's artistic playing on the evening of Nov. 13, 1901, at the recital in the college chapel. Every number afforded a rare treat to lovers of fine music, for each was rendered in faultless style by the versatile pianist. She was for four years a student of Henrich Barth, court pianist to the emperor, in Berlin."

From the Globe, New Wilmington, Pa.

The organ solo by Miss Speer won general approval. Although the instrument was small, she showed to her audience that she was master of it and knew how to draw out its best tones.—March 3, 1904.

In her playing Miss Speer shows excellent training and perfect understanding of her art, while her interpretation is of the highest order. Her rich mezzo-contralto was at its best in Nevin's Doris and the audience applauded enthusiastically.—April 15, 1904.

Mendelssohn's oratoria, Athalie, was successfully presented by the college chorus, directed by Miss Speer, June 13, 1904. Westminster is to be congratulated upon having an artist of such marked ability at the head of its musical department.—June 14, 1904.

Miss Speer is at the head of the musical department of Washington Seminary and is a highly accomplished musician, having studied the piano, organ, and vocal culture with the most eminent teachers in Europe. She plays exquisitely and has a strong mezzo-contralto voice of wide range and sympathetic timbre.—Washington Reporter, Feby. 6, 1906.

The first number of the Wooster, O., Summer School Lecture Course was a success. Miss Elizabeth R. Speer's piano solo was a fine piece of artistic work and she completely took her audience by storm. She has recently returned from Germany, where she had been studying her art, and her appearance in chapel was the first opportunity that Wooster people have had of hearing this talented musician since her return.—Wooster Summer Breeze, July 11, 1903.

An Ironton, Ohio, paper prints, Dec. 26, 1899: "To the delight of the congregation, Miss Speer sang solos at the Christ Episcopal Church both morning and evening. She has a beautifully cultivated voice of great power and expression."

The following complimentary notice concerning Miss Elizabeth Rebekah Speer, was taken from the Searcy, Arkansas, Daily Citizen: "An American girl who is a musician of the first rank will always be welcomed with pride and satisfaction in her own country, whenever she may choose to appear before the public, as in the present instance of the well-known pianist, Miss Elizabeth Rebekah Speer. Her playing leaves nothing to be desired. She has a technique that is truly marvelous; her touch is charming; her phrasing broad, musical and free and she brings a full, round, singing tone from the instrument. Her interpretation of ancient, lyric and modern music is always true to the composer's ideal. As Director of Music of Galloway College, Miss Speer has given entire satisfaction."

The Danville (Ky.) Advocate, in commenting on the recital given by Miss E. R. Speer and some of her pupils at Caldwell College, says: "The performance was marked by a great degree of skill. Miss Speer's numbers were highly appreciated. They showed unusual compass and cultivation of voice and tone quality that is difficult to excel."

The recital at the Seminary last night was a rare success. The house was crowded to overflowing. The repeated and prolonged applause and floral offerings testified to the interest and appreciation of the audience. Miss Elizabeth R. Speer, the Director of music, played several numbers. Her natural endowments, together with several years of magnificent training under Germany's best masters have made her a splendid artist. Miss Speer's playing throughout was delicate, brilliant, artistic, and what impressed itself upon her audience was the emotion, spirit and soul in each performance.—Washington (Pa.) Observer, Oct. 7, 1904.

